

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

IO-15 AID-20 DPW-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /173 W

----- 012653

O R 041135Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6115

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDAO SAIGON

SECDEF

COMUSMACTHAI

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

354 TFW KORAT

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN
CDR JCRC NKP
7 ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW UBON
388 TFW KORAT
56 SOW NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 6876

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW,
388 TFW, 354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2
AND PAO.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
SUBJECT: THE LAO WEEKLY SITREP -- OCTOBER 4

REF: VIENTIANE 6690

NOTE: BEGINNING TODAY, WE HAVE ADDED SOME ADDRESSEES
TO THIS SITREP. WE ASK THAT ANY RECIPIENTS WHO DO NOT
WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING SITREP PLEASE SO ADVISE.

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THIRD WEEK AFTER SIGNING OF PROTOCOL,
BOTH SIDES HAVE MOVED TOWARD IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT BY
NAMING DELEGATIONS TO JCIA. DELEGATIONS, WE UNDERSTAND,
ARE MEETING OCTOBER 4. RLG, WITH HELP OF LPF CADRES, ARE
REFURBISHING BUILDING TO HOUSE LPF CONTINGENT FOR JOINT
POLICE FORCE IN VIENTIANE. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS
RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTIONS THAT
SESSION BE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 7. FORMATION OF NEW
GOVERNMENT NOW EXPECTED LATE OCTOBER AT EARLIEST. ONLY
SEVEN MILITARY INCIDENTS (NO CASUALTIES) REPORTED DURING WEEK.
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I. MOVES TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT:
A. FORMATION OF JCIA: IN THIRD WEEK AFTER
SIGNING OF PROTOCOL, THERE HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE MOVEMENT
TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT AS BOTH LPF AND
RLG NAMED THEIR SEVEN-MEMBER DELEGATIONS TO JCIA. LPF
DELEGATION, WHICH ARRIVED VIENTIANE SEPTEMBER 27 WITH
ITS CHIEF, SOTH PHETRASY, INCLUDES NUMBER OF "DISSIDENT

NEUTRALISTS" AND IS FAIRLY LOW-RANKING. RLG ON OCTOBER 2 ANNOUNCED ITS DELEGATION, HEADED BY SOUKAN VILAYSARN, WHICH IS ALSO COMPOSED OF RELATIVELY WEAK MEMBERS. BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO HAVE DELIBERATELY DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORTANCE OF JCIA WHICH SUGGESTS THAT IT WILL HAVE PRIMARILY "HOUSEKEEPING" ROLE DESPITE SWEEPING RESPONSIBILITIES PRESCRIBED FOR IT BY SEPTEMBER 14 PROTOCOL. TWO JICA DELEGATIONS, WE UNDERSTAND, ARE MEETING TODAY, OCTOBER 4, FOR FIRST TIME. ICC/CANDEL WAS TOLD BY RLG MINISTER PHENG PHONGSAVAN THAT ONE OF PRIORITY ITEMS ON JCIA AGENDA IS QUESTION OF MAKING FORMAL REQUEST FOR ICC/ LAOS ASSISTANCE, WHICH REQUEST MAY INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH TWO PARTIES WISH ICC TO UNDERTAKE.

B. NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE: AMONG JCIA'S DUTIES IS COORDINATING EFFORTS OF THE TWO SIDES IN IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG AND THIS EFFORT SEEMS TO BE MOVING AHEAD. IN VIENTIANE, WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY TO REFURBISH THE BUILDING WHICH IS TO HOUSE LPF CONTINGENT FOR THE CITY'S JOINT POLICE FORCE. BOTH RLG WORKERS AND LPF CADRE ARE BUSILY FIXING UP AND CLEANING ALL FOUR FLOORS OF THE 320-ROOM FORMER SCHOOL BUILDING. A MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIAL HAD PREDICTED THAT THE PLACE WOULD BE READY FOR THE 1000-MAN LPF POLIC CONTINGENT BY THE END OF THE WEEK. RLG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, HAVE POINTED OUT THAT ARRIVAL OF LPF SECURITY FORCES CAUSES BUDGET HARDSHIPS NOTING, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT REFURBISHING OF POLICE QUARTERS COSTS 20 MILLION KIP PER MONTH. RLG HAS THEREFORE REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY BOTH DELEGATIONS TO JCIA. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED RLG TO APPROACH NOT ONLY U.S. AND SOVIETS FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT

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OTHER GENEVA POWERS WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING LAO SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTED.

C. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: PRIME MINISTER IS APPARENTLY STILL SEEKING TO WORK OUT SCENARIO FOR OBTAINING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACQUIESCENCE IN FORMATION OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU). EARLIER THIS WEEK, SOUVANNA PROPOSED TO THE ASSEMBLY EXTENDING TO NOVEMBER 7 ITS CURRENT SESSION SCHEDULED TO ADJOURN OCTOBER 11. ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE MET OCTOBER 3 AND AUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TO INFORM PRIME MINISTER THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO EXTENDING THE SESSION. SOUVANNA WILL PRESUMABLY NOW ASK KING TO EXERCISE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVE TO EXTEND SESSION. SOUVANNA HAS, AS FORECAST REFTEL, ALSO INFORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO

ASSEMBLY TEXTS OF FEBRUARY AGREEMENT AND SEPTEMBER
PROTOCOL. DEPUTIES HAVE BEGUN TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTS
AND INTEND EVENTUALLY TO MAKE A LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE PUT TO RLG REPRESENTATIVES.
NO SIGNIFICANT MOVES ARE EXPECTED AT LEAST UNTIL MIDDLE
OF NEXT WEEK, SINCE A NUMBER OF LEADING DEPUTIES, INCLUDING
ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT CHAO SOPSAISANA, ARE CURRENTLY
OUT OF COUNTRY.

D. FORMATION OF PGNU: AS INDICATED REFTEL, RLG

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

IO-15 AID-20 DPW-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /173 W

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O R 041135Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6116

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DODSPECREP BANGKOK
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CDR JCRC NKP
7 ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
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388 TFW KORAT
56 SOW NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 6876

LEADERS ARE NOW ESTIMATING THAT NEW PGNU WILL BE FORMED NO EARLIER THAN LATE OCTOBER. IN INTERVIEW, OCTOBER 1, LPF REP SOTH PHETRASY ALSO DECLARED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FORM THE NEW GOVERNMENT BEFORE OCTOBER 11 (TARGET DATE SOUVANNA HAD SET AT TIME PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED) BECAUSE A "NUMBER OF SECURITY PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SETTLED." SOTH NOTED THAT BEFORE FORMING GOVERNMENT IT WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE TO GUARANTEE SECURITY NOR LPF MINISTERS, IMPLYING THAT "NEUTRALIZATION" OF CITIES, WITH JOINT SECURITY FORCES IN PLACE, MUST FIRST BE COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE. SOTH, INCIDENTALLY, ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO TERM "REMANIEMENT" (RESHUFFLING) WHICH SOME RLG LEADERS ARE NOW USING TO DESCRIBE FORMATION OF PGNU. HE DREW ATTENTION TO TERMINOLOGY OF PROTOCOL AND, PARTICULARLY, AGREEMENT WHICH REFERS TO FORMATION OF NEW PGNU. (COMMENT: THIS, LIKE MOVES WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SEMANTIC ARGUMENT AND POLITICAL MANEUVERING WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED REGARDING NATURE OF NEW COALITION AND PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLING ITS MINISTERS.)

2. SECURITY SITUATION:

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A. ONE MAJOR AND SIX MINOR INCIDENTS (MOSTLY IN SOUTHERN LAOS) WERE REPORTED DURING WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 3, THREE OF THE FOUR INCIDENTS OCCURRED 22 KMS WEST-NORTHWEST OF DONG HENE AND INVOLVED ELEMENTS OF THE SAME BATTALIONS WHICH UNDERWENT ATTACKS BY FIRE ON 26-27 SEPTEMBER AND RECEIVED A MINOR GROUND ATTACK ON THE 28TH. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. ALL OTHER INCIDENTS WERE IN MR-I.

B. ON OCTOBER 2, A CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES, INC CONTRACT AIRCRAFT RETURNING FROM BOUAM LONG TO LUANG PRABANG ON A USAID MISSION SUSTAINED MINOR DAMAGE WHEN HIT BY ONE ROUND OF SMALL ARMS FIRE 16 KMS SOUTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG. THE FOLLOWING DAY, A LAO FAC AIRCRAFT FLYING RECONNAISSANCE OVER SAME AREA, REPORTED SPOTTING A POSSIBLE PATHET LAO GUN POSITION, FIRED A SMOKE ROCKET INTO THE SUSPECTED POSITION WHICH PROVOKED RETALIATORY FIRE. THE FAC AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED MINOR DAMAGE AND RETURNED TO BASE.

C. FAR DEMONSTRATED USUAL LACK OF FORWARD PLANNING THIS WEEK IN ASKING COMMANDER OF FRENCH TRAINING MISSION, ON FOUR-DAYS NOTICE, TO CONDUCT THREE-MONTH MILITARY POLICE TRAINING COURSE FOR 350 NEW RECRUITS. RECRUITS INTENDED TO AUGMENT CIVIL POLICE AND FORM PART OF RLG'S 500-MAN CONTINGENT ON JOINT POLICE FORCE IN LUANG PRABANG.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI06876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731049/aaaabjyu.tel
Line Count: 314
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: VIENTIANE 6690
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Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005